

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Amended) A method of producing an ink-spread compensated variant of an existing optical code encodation scheme comprising the steps of:  
  
determining a pattern of printed areas and spaces in the existing encodation scheme for a data input; the printed areas and spaces each having a respective length in at least one dimension as a function of a given unit length for encoding information; and  
  
adding a predetermined length to the length of each space while the length of each printed area remains unchanged to produce[d] a modified code symbol.

**REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Claims 25-38 which are concurrently being prosecuted in a separate patent application, namely, U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

10/013,400 filed on December 10, 2001, have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended.

Favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto and identified as VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE is a copy of the amended claim detailing the amendments made thereto.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



George Likourezos  
Reg. No. 40,067  
Attorney for Applicant

**Mailing Address:**  
**Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP**  
**445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 225**  
**Melville, New York 11747**  
**631-501-5706**  
**FAX: 631-501-3526**